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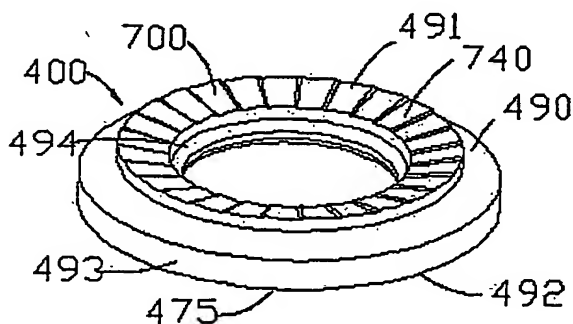
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(54) Title: **ELASTIC JOINT ELEMENT AND FASTENER ASSEMBLY INCORPORATING THE SAME**



(57) Abstract: A fastener assembly for use in a joint in  
a work-piece comprises a first fastener component for  
extending through a hole in the work-piece, a second  
fastener component and a resilient element. The first  
component has a first contact portion for engaging the  
work-piece. The second fastener component has a second  
contact portion for co-operating with the first fastener  
component to compressively load the work-piece thereby  
forming the joint. The resilient element is located between  
the first and second contact portions so that it is it is  
compressed under load. The resilient element has a  
first stiffness characteristic when subjected to loading  
less than a predefined amount and has a higher stiffness  
characteristic when subjected to loading more than the  
predefined amount.



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